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THE GARDEN CALENDAR

A radio talk by W. R. Beattie, horticulturist, Bureau of Plant Industry, delivered through WRC and 35 other stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, Tuesday, June 3, 1930.

How-do-you-do Friends: I wonder what each and every one of you are doing on your farms, in your gardens, and in your orchards today. Our Farm and Home family are scattered over such a wide territory that I fear we do not always talk about things that are of interest to everybody. Of course, everyone is interested in the weather, and some of you have had too much rainfall for the good of your crops; there have been frosts in certain of the northern parts of our broadcast range, while here at Washington, and all around the Nation's Capital, farm crops and gardens are suffering for want of rain. Fruit trees do not seem to be suffering very much, although I notice that the drop of cherries and plums is exceptionally heavy, and small fruits like raspberries and currants, are showing considerable drouth injury especially on sandy or gravelly soils.

There is another topic on which I am sure that we will all agree, and that is the weed question. I note that despite the drouth here at Washington, the weeds are making their usual June growth in my garden, and the fight to control them is on in earnest, but if getting up with the birds and working until after dark means anything, I will win the battle. My aim is to get the weeds under complete control before it starts raining, because, as you all know, weeds in the garden, and frequent rains spell disaster.

Many of the early crops have been gathered from southern gardens, and unless something else is planted in their place, crab grass and other weeds will soon occupy the ground, and draw from the soil any fertilizer that may have been left by the early crops. If you do not intend to plant more vegetables on the land, crab grass will make a pretty good soil-improvement crop for the summer, but cowpeas or velvet beans would be much better.

For the northern gardeners who have had some of their crops injured by frost, there is but one thing for them to do, and that is to replant so as to have a supply of garden vegetables for use later in the season. Fruit growers are busy spraying and cultivating their orchards, and many of them are beginning to gather and market ripe fruit. Later, they will be sowing cover crops in their orchards, and discontinuing cultivation for the season.

It is about the time now for the planting of the late or the main crop of potatoes in many sections, and I would suggest that all of you who live in the late potato sections get a copy of Dr. William Stuart's bulletin on the "Production of Late or Main-Crop Potatoes." It is Farmers' Bulletin No. 1064, and a reprint has just been issued.

Onion culture is the title of Farmers' Bulletin No. 354, which has just been reprinted in a revised form. There are only 26 pages in this bulletin, but it includes 20 illustrations, and I believe will be of interest to every commercial onion grower, especially in the eastern United States.

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Those of you who have apple orchards may be interested in getting a copy of Farmers' Bulletin No. 1457 entitled "Packing Apples in Boxes," a reprint of which has recently been issued. This bulletin shows how to make the proper pack for the different sizes of fruit. If you have not had experience in wrapping apples you would get a lot of information from the illustrations in this bulletin showing just how to juggle an apple neatly into its paper covering before packing it in the box. If you are interested in learning how the work is done in commercial packing houses, I would suggest that you get a copy of Farmers' Bulletin No. 1457.

Here is a bulletin that will be of interest to flower lovers. Its title is "Rose Diseases and their Control," Farmers' Bulletin No. 1547. Roses like all other plants, are susceptible to many diseases, and the control of these diseases is essential to successful rose growing, whether in the home flower garden, or in the commercial nursery.

We have another bulletin entitled "Insect Enemies of Chrysanthemums." Farmers' Bulletin 1306. This bulletin describes the various insects that trouble chrysanthemums, both in the greenhouse and out-of-doors, together with methods of control.

Many of you doubtless grow strawberries either for home use or commercially, and about this time of the year you are facing the problem of what to do with the old strawberry bed. "Strawberry Culture in the Eastern United States," is the title of Farmers' Bulletin No. 1028, and "Strawberry Culture in the Atlantic and Gulf Coast States," is the title of Farmers' Bulletin No. 1026, and I am sure these bulletins will prove of interest to any of you who are either contemplating planting strawberries, or who have a bed that you want to clean up and get into shape for next year.

Now, I think I have burdened you with enough bulletin references for today, and in closing, I want to again remind you that if you expect to eat, you must work - not a very cheerful reminder I will admit - but if you want nice fresh vegetables to eat during the latter part of the season, also some to store for winter, it will be necessary to make additional plantings. I know that when the sun gets hot, and the weeds are taking everything, there is a great inclination to lie in a hammock, or go fishing, but if you do, there may not be much on your dinner table along about September or October, so my suggestion is that you check up on your seed supply, clean up a little of that vacant ground in the garden and plant a few late crops in order to increase the mineral salt and vitamin part of your diet next fall.

If the weather is dry it may be necessary to carry a little water and sprinkle the rows where you sow the seed, and, on the other hand, if you are having wet weather in your locality you may need to throw up some beds or ridges on which to plant the seeds. Of course, you folks who live in the irrigated regions have it on us easterners, because you can control the moisture conditions in your soil, and I really envy you just now when we are having so much dry weather around Washington. Regardless of where you are located, you should plant a late garden.